

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (1)

Meeting: Schools Forum
Place: Online meeting via Microsoft Teams
Date: Thursday 20 January 2022
Time: 1.30 pm

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 12 January 2022. Additional documents are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Lisa Pullin, Tel 01225 713015 or email committee@wiltshire.gov.uk, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge.

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

6 **Updates from Working Groups (Pages 3 - 6)**

The minutes of the meeting of the Early Years Reference Group held on 5 January 2022 are now attached.

8e **Schools Block Update 2022-23 (Delegated Budget) (Pages 7 - 12)**

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks to update the Forum on issues relating to the schools delegated budget for 2022-23 and the decisions that will need to be taken as part of the budget setting process for 2022-23. The report is now attached.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 17 January 2022

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Early Years Reference Group Meeting

Wednesday 5 January 2022

1. Welcome and introductions

Lyssy Bolton (LB), Lucy-Anne Bryant (LAB), Jane Boulton, Jo Clarke (JC), Rosemary Collard (RC), Emma Cooke (EC), Jackie Day (JD), Jenny Harvey (JH)(notes), Sarah Hawkins (SH), Russ Martin (RM), Deborah Muir (DM), Emma Osmund (EO), John Proctor (JProctor), Claire Shipley (CS), Marie Taylor (MT), Emily Wood (EW)

2. Apologies

Gary Binstead (GB), Jane Provis (JProv), Angela Everett (AE)

3. Minutes of last meeting (17 November 2021)

There are two changes to be made. Firstly, it was incorrectly recorded that no EYRG representatives attended the last Schools Forum meeting, JProctor was in attendance. Secondly, LAB was recorded in both Welcome and Introductions and Apologies sections, when she should have been recorded in Apologies only. The minutes have now been amended to reflect these two changes.

4. Matters arising

Item 4 - list of private nurseries. MT has requested this list and been advised that it is possible to provide. MT will chase as not been received to date.

Item 4 – EYRG membership. LAB confirmed this action is to be carried forward.

Item 4 – Inclusion Support Funding and EY High Needs budget transfer issue. MT advised that AE is currently off sick and is liaising with Pam Thomson instead.

Item 5 – EY budget monitoring and one off work proposals. The group discussed who should be the focus of this work and looked at a range of options and associated issues including free training, funding backfill, work experience placements, people wanting a career change, and recruitment and retention. A broader discussion was had on the suitability of some post 16 qualifications young adults are signed posted to if they express an interest in the EY industry. Overall, it was felt that EY needs to have a strategy like that of Social Work, and LB felt that any recruitment/marketing drive should be twin tracked for both schools and settings.

Item 6 – MT and B&NES contact. MT has emailed contact and is awaiting their response. She will phone them tomorrow.

Item 4 – Inclusion Support Funding and EY High Needs budget transfer issue. MT advised that AE is currently off sick and is liaising with Pam Thomson instead.

Item 7 – EYRG new chair. EW confirmed this action is to be carried forward.

ACTION:

- MT to chase list of private nurseries from Ian Brown**
- LAB to make contact with possible representative replacements**
- MT to report back to group on ISF discussion with Pam Thomson**
- EC and LAB to have discussion with Mandy Timbrell regarding post 16 career opportunities within the EY sector**
- MT to chase B&NES contact re: Early Years representatives at county career conventions**
- EW to liaise with Communications re: new chair article/vlog**

5. EY budget and 2022/2023 funding rates

MT revisited the slides from the last meeting (copy attached). For the financial year 2022/2023, the following rates have been confirmed by government:

EYPP - £0.60 per funded hour (current rate is £0.53)

DAF - £800 per year (current rate is £615)

2yo - £5.69 per funded hour (current rate is £5.48)

3&4yo – six different options have been modelled with hourly rates between £4.40 and £4.45. no of diff options (6) available between £4.40 and £4.45. After discussion, it was agreed that Option 3 (£0.17 increase to £4.42 per funded hour) was approved as the recommendation to be taken to the next Schools Forum meeting.

EO queried whether the ISF allocation was more than in previous years, and MT confirmed it remained unchanged. EO expressed concern that there has been an increase in EY need requiring additional support, and that this will be a significant area to be funded in the future. EO also felt that consideration needs to be given to children accessing 30 hours and ISF still being available for 15 hours only. LAB confirmed that this was correct, and the issue needs to be addressed. JD commented that EY providers are unable to keep children safe as they are unable to afford to ISF to cover the additional 15 hours attendance, so a lot of children only access the 15 hours even though they are eligible for the 30 hours. MT confirmed that a banding review is planned but this won't be until the next financial year

Discussion took place around possible one-off pastoral universal payments, focus on inclusive settings, access to therapeutic services via HELM, group ISF applications as well as having robust criteria and procedures in place for funding applications.

JB stated that a strategy needs to be put in place to work with children earlier in order to reduce the cost through education. JP felt that the whole ISF provision need to be reviewed and researched along with the redistribution of ISF High Needs and the EY element.

CS suggested that the ISF data could be reviewed to see what the funding could look like for children accessing 30 hours.

**ACTION: LAB/MT and Inclusion team to review ISF funding for 30 hour children
MT to take forward to Schools Forum Option 3 as the recommended proposal for funding rates.**

6. Impact of COVID on providers

The group fed back on how the start to the New Year was going. There appears to be a mixed picture across the county with providers just about managing. Some providers are experiencing sickness and absence in staff and others with children. The group were asked if they had been affected by parents testing positive which then in turn affected child attendance. DM commented that they had been affected by this last term.

It was also noted that this morning's news was stating that from 11 January 2022, those who tested positive with an LFT would no longer need to get a PCR test

ACTION: None

7. AOB

JProctor informed the group that JB has been awarded a British Empire Medal of Honour in recognition of her career in Early Years Education. She received well deserved congratulations from the group.

LB kindly volunteered to be the group representative for Schools Forum. Whilst she is school based, she does have a wide understanding of the Early Years sector. Future meeting dates (mainly online) are 20 January 2022, 17 March 2022 (possibly), 9 June 2022, 6 October 2022 and 8 December 2022. LB said that any questions/comments can be raised with her directly to take to Schools Forum.

ACTION: MT to liaise with Lisa Pullin re: new group membership

8. Date of next meeting

The next meetings are scheduled as follows:

Thursday 31 March 2022 at 1pm.

Wednesday 21 September 2022 at 1pm

Wednesday 23 November 2022 at 1pm.

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Wiltshire Council

School Funding & SEN Working Group - 10th January 2022

Schools Forum - 20th January 2022

DSG Budget – Schools Block Update 2022-23 (Delegated Budget)

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Schools Forum on issues relating to the schools delegated budget for 2022-23 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process.

Main Considerations

2. As outlined in the funding settlement paper the Department for Education (DfE) has allocated a schools' block quantum to Wiltshire of £328.593 million. This includes funding of £1.913 million for the growth fund, based on the growth formula, detailed later in this report.
3. Cabinet approved the funding formula for 2021-22 which confirmed that Wiltshire would move as close to the national funding formula (NFF) as possible. In doing so the Wiltshire formula replicated the formula factors in the NFF as closely as possible.
4. Formula factors were all fully funded at the published NFF values in 2021-22 apart from the Sparsity factor, which was funded at the 2020-21 rates with a 3% uplift applied. Following the results of a consultation exercise by the DfE, a new NFF methodology has been introduced for the sparsity factor which will be imposed when the 'hard' formula is introduced. The changes to the sparsity factor have been shared with members of Schools Forum in October 2021 and an 'in principle' decision was agreed to implement the NFF methodology and funding values.
5. Modelling work has been prepared to calculate individual school budgets based on the proposed formula. The main funding formula for 2022-23 is broadly similar to the formula for 2021-22 but the following changes should be noted.
 - An increase in Pupil and School led funding values of 3%
 - Minimum Funding Guarantee to be set between 0.5% and 2.0% to ensure all schools see a gain in funding on their pupil led funding
 - Maximum Sparsity funding being increased by £10,000 in both Primary and Secondary schools to £55,000 and £80,000 respectively to support small and rural schools
 - Sparsity distances to be measured using road distances rather than 'as the crow flies' and applying a distance taper for schools within 20% of the distance threshold
 - Increases in the minimum per pupil funding levels (MPPFL) to £4,265 and £5,525 in primary and secondary schools
6. Initial modelling suggests that the NFF is fully affordable within the funding envelope provided by the DfE. The Schools Block of funding is sufficient to afford the full NFF with further discussion of some factors detailed in this report.

The National Funding Formula

7. Since the introduction of the NFF, it has been Wiltshire's intention to move across to mirror and replicate the formula in the 'soft' years, prior to moving to the 'hard' formula. Over the last four years, Wiltshire has moved across to funding schools, subject to affordability, using the NFF factor values. Where the NFF values could not be afforded, the Free School Meal Ever6 (FSM6) factor was compromised to ensure the other factor values were affordable. For the last three years, the formula has been fully affordable.
8. The DfE published their NFF factor values in the Summer of 2021 and following the announcement about the size of the DSG, the funding formula has been modelled to incorporate the NFF values (see Appendix 1 for rates).
9. Based upon the Schools' Block allocation, the formula is fully affordable for the 2022-23 financial year, applying all the NFF factor values. Wiltshire has been fully funded through the NFF and this has ensured that Schools Forum is presented with a position of affording the full NFF.
10. Within the modelling, the following elements have been included:
 - Full NFF values applied for all funding factors
 - Increased Sparsity funding in line with NFF values and methodology
 - MFG set at the maximum level of 2%
 - Transfer from Schools' Block to High Needs Block of 0.5% (£1.643m)
11. The table below sets out the funding position having applied all the NFF values and taken account of any proposed transfers, to demonstrate the affordability position.

Funding 2022-23	Amount £
Core funding	£326,680,815
Growth funding	£1,912,967
Net Funding	£328,593,782
NNDR Business rates	£3,034,400
TOTAL	£325,559,382
Transfer to High Needs Block (0.5%)	(£1,642,969)
Available for School Funding	£323,916,413
NFF requirements	£323,191,884
Growth Fund	£724,529
Schools Block Allocated	£323,916,413

Growth Funding Allocation 2021-22

12. Growth allocations for 2022-23 are based upon pupil data from the October 2021 census and the October 2020 census.
13. The county is separated into 62 Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOA) with an average of 4 schools in each MSOA area. Growth is measured by counting the increase in pupil numbers in each MSOA between the October 2020 and October 2021 censuses. Only positive increases in pupil numbers are included, so positive growth in one area, and negative growth in another, will not be denied growth funding.
14. The DfE do not expect local authorities to use these rates in their local arrangements for funding growth but instead the growth factor acts as a proxy for overall growth costs at local authority level.
15. At the Schools Forum meeting in December 2021, Schools, the criteria for allocating Growth funding in the 2022-23 year was confirmed. The amount of funding allocated to Wiltshire for the 2022-23 year is set out in the table below.

<u>Funding 2022-23</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Growth in Pupils	340.5	633.5	974
Rate	£1,495.65	£2,215.78	
Amount	£509,269	£1,403,697	£1,912,966

Historical Position

16. Growth funding forms part of the Schools Block of funding. Schools Forum has historically agreed an annual budget to be retained for funding pupil growth and has operated successfully within this funding envelope. In the financial year 2022-23 it is proposed to set the budget once again in line with the affordability, having applied NFF rates for the funding factors.

Affordability

17. There are no plans to open any new schools in the 2022-23 year. The growth fund supports new primary and secondary schools with diseconomy costs for the first 7 years or until the school is full.
18. The Basic Need Class Expansion for additional classes is still to be confirmed with colleagues in the School places team for the 2022-23 academic year. However, growth is being experienced as new housing becomes available across the County, despite a falling birth rate being experienced.
19. The Infant Class Size increases have been confirmed for 2021-22 with four schools being funded through this factor.
20. The total Growth Fund requirement for 2022-23 is anticipated to come within the proposed budget, as allocated by the DfE and based upon the funding of all the NFF factors in full. Any surplus or deficit in the Growth Fund will form part of the overall DSG surplus or deficit balance.

Minimum Funding Guarantee

21. The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) was designed to prevent schools from experiencing significant reductions in their calculated 'per pupil' funding, year on year. Historically, the MFG had been set at -1.5% to prevent reductions in funding of greater than 1.5%.
22. Following the additional funding pledge, the DfE are seeking to ensure that all schools see an uplift in their calculated per pupil funding and have therefore proposed that the MFG is set at a positive figure of between 0.5% and 2.0%.
23. As in the 2021-22 year, modelling of the MFG is no longer a significant issue, as the majority of schools have moved off the MFG funding and as a result, no capping of schools would be required to fund the MFG again this year. This correlates with the DfE's intention to move all schools across towards the NFF, with an intention of introducing a 'hard' formula in due course.
24. Setting a positive MFG of 2% is fully affordable and will ensure that all schools see an uplift in their 'per pupil' funding of at least 2%. The cost to the formula in 2022-23 is less than £0.155m, subject to decisions taken by Schools Forum.

Sparsity

25. The DfE's consultation in the 2021-22 year, introduced a number of changes to the criteria for the NFF sparsity factor. Schools Forum considered a report in 2021-22 which set out the implications of these changes for Wiltshire and agreed to mirror the NFF within the Wiltshire formula for 2022-23.
26. The criteria for Sparsity funding are based upon size and sparsity distance. The threshold is for primary schools of 150 pupils or less and secondary schools of 600 pupils or less. The distance threshold is now based upon the average road distance from the pupil's home to next nearest compatible school. Where this distance is greater than 2 miles for primary and 3 miles for secondary pupils a school is eligible for funding.
27. The NFF introduced a 'distance taper' which now means that primary and secondary schools with a sparsity distance within 20% of the threshold (1.6miles and 2.4miles for primary and secondary), will now be eligible for funding, using a tapering mechanism.
28. The formula also uses a tapering mechanism based upon size of the school such that schools receive a weighted proportion of the maximum value.
29. As part of the DfE's proposals to support small and rural schools, the maximum sparsity value for primary schools was increased to £55,000, with Secondary schools increasing to £80,000. The table below shows the impact of these changes on the 2022-23 formula.

<u>2022-23</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Eligible Schools	62	4	66
Funding	£2,236,040	£142,411	£2,378,451*
<u>2021-22</u>			
Eligible Schools	28	2	30
Funding	£295,939	£49,594	£345,533

* – This represents 0.72% of the total Schools Block Allocation

Minimum per Pupil Funding Levels (MPPFL)

30. The MPPFL's were introduced as part of the NFF and have been increased annually as part of the DfE's proposals to standardise funding across the country. These are mandatory as part of the NFF and therefore there is no scope for amending these values without permission from the Secretary of State.
31. The thresholds in primary and secondary schools for 2022-23 are £4,265 and £5,525 for primary and secondary respectively. These values include the previous Teachers Pay and Pension Grants which were incorporated into the AWPU funding values from 2021-22.
32. The overall funding allocated through the MPPFL is £4.953m in 2022-23, a decrease of £1.623m on the 2021-22 figure of £6.576m.

Proposals

33. Schools Forum is asked to note the report.
34. Schools Forum to confirm its intention to apply all the funding factors at the 2022-23 NFF rates.
35. Schools Forum to note the impact of the Sparsity factor.
36. Schools Forum to agree setting the MFG at a level of 2.0%.
37. Schools Forum to agree the level of the Growth fund at £0.725m.

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Appendix 1

Factor	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Primary KS1&2 AWPU	£2,747	£2,857	£3,123*	£3,217*
Secondary KS3 AWPU	£3,863	£4,018	£4,404*	£4,536*
Secondary KS4 AWPU	£4,386	£4,561	£4,963*	£5,112*
Primary & Secondary FSM	£440	£450	£460	£470
Primary FSM6	£540	£560	£575	£590
Secondary FSM6	£785	£815	£840	£865
IDACI Primary Band A	£575	£600	£620	£640
IDACI Primary Band B	£420	£435	£475	£490
IDACI Primary Band C	£390	£405	£445	£460
IDACI Primary Band D	£360	£375	£410	£420
IDACI Primary Band E	£240	£250	£260	£270
IDACI Primary Band F	£200	£210	£215	£220
IDACI Secondary Band A	£810	£840	£865	£890
IDACI Secondary Band B	£600	£625	£680	£700
IDACI Secondary Band C	£560	£580	£630	£650
IDACI Secondary Band D	£515	£535	£580	£595
IDACI Secondary Band E	£390	£405	£415	£425
IDACI Secondary Band F	£290	£300	£310	£320
Prior Attainment – Primary	£1,022	£1,065	£1,095	£1,130
Prior Attainment – Secondary	£1,550	£1,610	£1,660	£1,710
EAL – Primary	£515	£535	£550	£565
EAL - Secondary	£1,385	£1,440	£1,485	£1,530
Mobility – Primary	£0	£875	£900	£925
Mobility – Secondary	£0	£1,250	£1,290	£1,330
Lump Sum	£110,000	£114,400	£117,800	£121,300
Sparsity – Primary	£0-£25,000	£0-£26,000	£0-£45,000	£0-£55,000
Sparsity – Secondary	£0-£65,000	£0-£67,500	£0-£70,000	£0-£80,000
Primary - MPPFL	£3,500	£3,750	£4,180	£4,265
Secondary – MPPFL	£4,800	£5,000	£5,415	£5,525

* - Includes the Teachers Pay and Pension Grants of £180 for Primary and £265 for Secondary